

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 27, 2013

Contacts:

Dr. Douglas Reisig, Superintendent, Hellgate, 406-728-5626, dreisig@hellgate.k12.mt.us

Allyson Hagen, OPI, 406-444-3160, ahagen2@mt.gov

HELLGATE ELEMENTARY RECEIVES STATEWIDE AWARD FOR HEALTHY SCHOOL BREAKFASTS

(Missoula, MT) Hellgate Elementary is receiving statewide recognition for their exceptional school breakfast program through the Healthier Montana Menu Challenge Award Program. Hellgate Elementary is one of only four other schools in Montana that have received this prestigious school breakfast award. Hellgate School District serves over 250 breakfast meals and over 850 lunches each day.

"We all know that students who don't eat a healthy breakfast struggle to stay focused on learning in the classroom," said Superintendent Denise Juneau. "Hellgate Elementary is setting an example for schools across the state by their commitment to serving healthy meals that provide students the energy they need to succeed."

Julie Leister, School Food Service Director, and her staff work hard to prepare fresh, healthy meals daily. School breakfast includes fresh fruit, lean proteins, low fat dairy foods and healthy cereal choices. Hellgate students are able to enjoy homemade breakfast entrees thanks to the school food service staff's baking skills and willingness to try new recipes. Hellgate Elementary successfully met a challenging set of menu criteria to qualify for the award.

Stated Julie Leister, School Food Service Director, "Breakfast is the most important meal of the day to help our students learn, so we want them to have healthy choices while still being appealing and enticing."

According to District Superintendent Dr. Douglas Reisig, Julie Leister and the members of the Hellgate Elementary Food Service Department are outstanding healthy lifestyle choice ambassadors for our students and staff. "The department's attention to detail in preparation and presentation of healthy breakfast food choice offerings to students and staff is 'top notch' in all aspects. Hellgate Elementary is lucky to have such a wonderful Food Service Department," Reisig states.

In addition to serving as an outstanding role model for other schools in Montana, Hellgate Elementary School will receive an award banner, certificate, as well as a \$500.00 monetary award.

For more information about the Healthier Montana Menu Challenge, please visit:

http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/School_Nutrition/HealthyMT.html#gpm1_3

Montana Office of Public Instruction officials will present the award to Hellgate Elementary on Thursday, March 28, 2013. The special breakfast meal with the award celebration to follow begins at 7:30 a.m. Parents and community members are invited to attend the award celebration and enjoy a healthy, tasty breakfast.

###